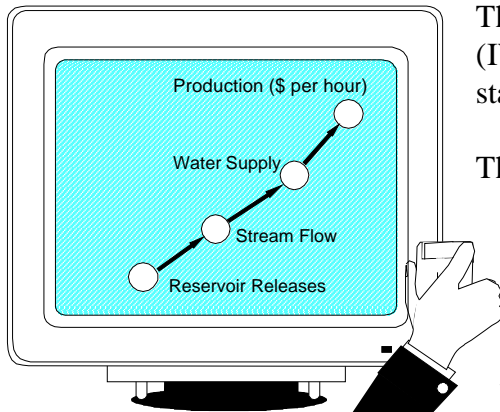


Shared Vision Planning



Shared vision models visibly connect stakeholder concerns to water management decisions.

The Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources (IWR) has developed a way to use computers to help stakeholders participate in rigorous planning analyses.

The innovation at the heart of a traditional multiobjective planning approach is the *shared vision model*. This type of model was conceived at the University of Washington by [Professor Richard N. Palmer](#). Shared vision models are built using new, user-friendly, graphical simulation software. They bridge the gap between specialized computer analysis tools and the way people conceptualize problems and make decisions. The name *shared vision models* captures their most important advantage. Because experts and stakeholders can build these models

together, including elements that interest each group, they become a *trusted, consensus view* of how the system in question works as a whole, and how it affects stakeholders and the environment. Without adding new bureaucracies or reassigning decision making authority, the shared vision model and the act of developing it create a virtual team of problem solvers that facilitates the integrated evaluation of the conditions they study.

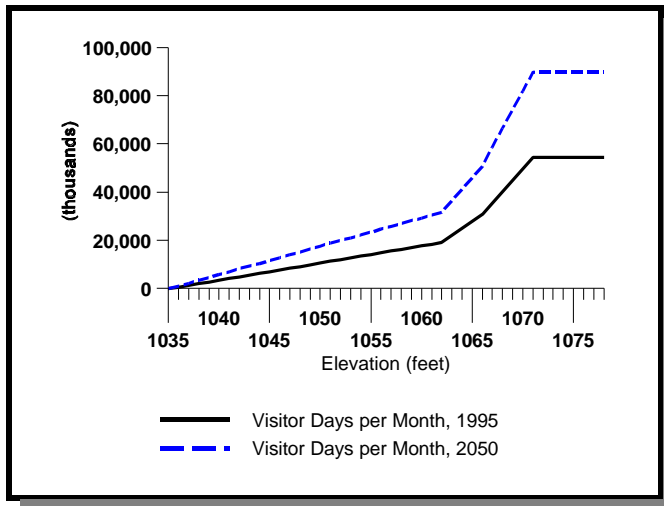
Shared Vision Planning has been used only in conflicts over water resources management issues, but it is fundamentally a marriage of **systems engineering**, **public policy** and **public involvement**. Because the shared vision model is easy to understand does not mean the analysis it provides lacks technical rigor. In fact, at the heart of the method is a thorough planning and evaluation framework, based on well established, time tested principles embodied in the US Water Resources Council's [Principles and Guidelines](#). It focuses on objectives rather than means, as Gilbert White proposed in his groundbreaking work of the late 1930's. It embodies the principles of multiobjective water management developed by the Harvard Water Program in the 1950s, and applied by the Corps' Harry Schwarz in the North Atlantic Regional Study, completed in 1972. The SVP method goes beyond engineering and economic evaluations of water management to include environmental, social and political objectives. Like *Principles and Guidelines*, Shared Vision Planning requires iterative planning, but Shared Vision Planning adapts the P&G so that it can be applied to any public decision making process that centers on a system that changes over time, and that provides benefits and requires opportunity costs.

Based on sound systems engineering principles

Integrated perspective

Water management experts use the many phrases -- *watershed management, ecosystem management, sustainable development, adaptive management, river basin management, problemshed management, integrated resources management* -- to describe ideal approaches to managing water. They are variations on the theme: **what is whole in nature and society should not be managed in a piecemeal fashion**. In reality, our water

Shared Vision Planning



SVM's make it easier to show how changes in one part of a system effect another part

management is split by political boundaries and professional viewpoints. The goal of the Corps [National Drought Study](#) (1990-1994) was to narrow the gap between this principle and the practice of water management and planning. The National Drought Study team, joined by Professor Palmer because of his interest in the Seattle case study, looked for the best ideas on water management and then tested them in real world situations. Thus was the Shared Vision Model conceived.

The flexibility of the models makes it easy to analyze the sensitivity of conclusions to errors in data, changed forecasts, or conflicting assumptions about how water systems respond. These models enable a

much easier evaluation of the benefits and costs of alternative courses of action *in a consistent and replicable manner*. This approach was used in several case studies during the **National Drought Study**, and was recently applied to the **Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa and Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Comprehensive River Basins Study (ACT-ACF)**. [The ACT-ACF models](#) are available and can be run using a free, run only version of the STELLA II ® software they were created in.

Complete reports, with information on shared vision planning and the National Drought Study, including the [Report to the U.S. Congress](#), as well as other IWR studies, are available at the IWR Website.

Part of IWR's Program of Computer Assistance for Planning and Dispute

Shared vision planning, along with a number of different computer aided decision making models, has been developed at IWR to assist in watershed planning, special area management plans (SAMP's) and wetlands mitigation banking. With greater emphasis on streamlining the planning process, the Corps takes advantage of the new class of computer analytical tools to better organize project evaluation, impact assessment

and project selection, the core of the planning process. The tools have been tested and they work, in most cases providing results that are superior to currently used methods and models at a considerably lower cost.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL BILL WERICK AT 703-428-9055 OR SEND E-MAIL TO WILLIAM.J.WERICK@WRC01.USACE.ARMY.MIL